

V-VI-5

Not offered - Pacific

Def. Doc. #2000



Exh. No.

Translated by
Defense Language Branch

Beautiful and True Prayers for the Dead.

Excerpt from the ASAHI, Oct. 6, 1945.

Union of the Departed Souls of the Allied and Japanese Soldiers;
An Episode Revealed on the Landing of the Allied Forces.

On the morning of the 5th, inst. in a drizzling autumn rain, one jeep drew up before the Jugan Temple of the Jodo sect of Buddhism, 8-Chomo, Tani-machi, South Ward, Osaka and at once an M.P. with an automatic rifle under his arm stood solemnly on guard in front of the main building of the Temple. By this strange sight for the first time a touching story concerning P.O.W.s of the Allied Forces was revealed to the public. On both sides of the ancient image of this Temple which has a great history of Seven Centuries, there were laid in state large unvarnished wooden boxes on which were marked U.S. 485, British 381, etc. In these boxes were the ashes of the P.O.W.s of the Allied Forces --- U.S.A., British, Dutch, Canadian, Australian, Indian, etc. --- numbering 1091, who had most unfortunately died in Japanese P.O.W. Camps in the Southern Areas or in Japan Proper. At the back of them were laid in long rows the remains of more than two thousand Japanese soldiers, who were natives of Osaka Prefecture, and thus in this rather small temple

V-VI-5

Not offered - Pacific

Def. Doc. #2000



Exh. No.

Translated by
Defense Language Branch

Beautiful and True Prayers for the Dead.

Excerpt from the ASAHI, Oct. 6, 1945.

Union of the Departed Souls of the Allied and Japanese Soldiers;
An Episode Revealed on the Landing of the Allied Forces.

On the morning of the 5th, inst. in a drizzling autumn rain, one jeep drew up before the Jugan Temple of the Jodo sect of Buddhism, 8-Chome, Tani-machi, South Ward, Osaka and at once an M.P. with an automatic rifle under his arm stood solemnly on guard in front of the main building of the Temple. By this strange sight for the first time a touching story concerning P.O.W.s of the Allied Forces was revealed to the public. On both sides of the ancient image of this Temple which has a great history of Seven Centuries, there were laid in state large unvarnished wooden boxes on which were marked U.S. 485, British 381, etc. In these boxes were the ashes of the P.O.W.s of the Allied Forces --- U.S.A., British, Dutch, Canadian, Australian, Indian, etc. --- numbering 1091, who had most unfortunately died in Japanese P.O.W. Camps in the Southern Areas or in Japan Proper. At the back of them were laid in long rows the remains of more than two thousand Japanese soldiers, who were natives of Osaka Prefecture, and thus in this rather small temple

Def. Doc. #2000

hall, the remains of the departed heroes who had been enemies only yesterday were laid side by side in friendly peace.

Three years ago, when the Rev. YAMAGUCHI, Shinsei, Chief Priest of the Temple was, as he has been up to this moment, in military service as a sergeant-major, of the Headquarters of the Osaka Regimental District he was asked by Colonel MURATA, Commander of the Osaka P.O.W. Camps to take charge of these ashes of the deceased P.O.W.s of the Allied Forces. Some people objected to him and some blamed, but Rev. YAMAGUCHI, who had some firm conviction as a religious man, readily complied with this very praiseworthy request of Colonel MURATA. Since then, Rev. YAMAGUCHI, as a sergeant-major and at the same time as a priest, has never spent a day without offering morning and evening prayers, for the souls of the departed enemy soldiers even when he was busy with military duties.

The temple fortunately escaped the damages from the repeated air raid bombing, but it was not a few times that these sacred urns in his charge were thrown off the depository alcoves by the explosive shocks. In spite of these difficult circumstances, and of the public criticisms he has faithfully kept watch over his precious charge until the termination of war. Meantime, the Temple was asked, when the Tsumura Branch Temple of the Osaka Kita-Mido was bombed, to take charge of the ashes of the Japanese soldiers which had been kept in the same temple. Thus the remains of the Allied P.O.W.s and Japanese soldiers came to be laid together in one place, and the Rev. YAMAGUCHI felt a greater weight of

Def. Doc. #2000

his responsibility therein. On the landing of the Occupation Army of the Allied Powers, its advance corps found the ashes of their soldiers being taken charge of in this cordial manner. On the 25th of last month several of their officers inspected the Temple and offered incense in the Buddhist fashion while a memorial service was officiated by the Rev. YAMAGUCHI, and cordially "expressed their gratitude on behalf of the Allied Forces." On the 4th, Lt. Clarence B. Dimon and 2 other soldiers visited the Temple, and it has been decided that from the morning of the 5th, three Allied guards are by turn to stand daily on guard for the ashes in custody of the Temple.

Def. Doc. #2000

his responsibility therein. On the landing of the Occupation Army of the Allied Powers, its advance corps found the ashes of their soldiers being taken charge of in this cordial manner. On the 25th of last month several of their officers inspected the Temple and offered incense in the Buddhist fashion while a memorial service was officiated by the Rev. YAMAGUCHI, and cordially "expressed their gratitude on behalf of the Allied Forces." On the 4th, Lt. Clarence B. Dimon and 2 other soldiers visited the Temple, and it has been decided that from the morning of the 5th, three Allied guards are by turn to stand daily on guard for the ashes in custody of the Temple.

Def. Doc. #2000

C E R T I F I C A T E

This is to certify that the story marked on the
photography copy of newspaper appeared on Oct. 6, 1945,
issue of Osaka Asahi Shimbun.

/s/ I. SAKAMOTO (seal)
Chief,
Library Section,
Asahi Shimbun Pub. Co.

4

美はし、

誠の同向

進駐軍に描く彼我英靈の邂逅

秋さめけむる五口朝、一臺のジープが大阪市南區谷町八丁目浄土宗重願寺前に停り、本堂前に自動小銃を小脇にした衛兵が毅然と立つた、この異様な風景から聯合軍俘虜を焼つての美はしい話が初めて明かにされた――七百年の由緒を誇る本尊兩側にはアメリカ四八五、英三八一等々と書かれた大きな白木の箱が安置してある、これは南方あるひは日本の俘虜收容所で不幸死亡した聯合軍米、英、和、加、露、印度など各國俘虜の遺骨一千九十一柱が納められてゐるのである。として背後には大阪府出身の日本軍將兵の遺骨二千余柱がずらりと並び、廣からぬ本堂に奇しくも昨日の敵味方の英靈が仲よく奉安されてゐるのである。

今から三年前、この寺の住職山口眞誠師が當時も現在同様實長として大阪神隊區司令部に勤務してゐた關係で、大阪俘虜收容所長村田大佐の懇請により聯合軍俘虜の遺骨を預かることになつた、このため山口師に對しては一部で非難もし、反對するものもあつたが宗教家として心に堅く信ずる

ところのあつた山口師は村田大佐の奇特な申出を心よく引受けたのだつた、
皇軍曹長であり同時に僧侶である山口師はそれ以來軍務のかたはら朝夕の
回向を缺かしたことがなかつた。

寺は度重なる空爆にもその都度災害をまぬかれたが、爆風で奉安祠から
遺骨が放り出されたことも一度や二度ではなかつた、かうした困難な状況
の下にもかゝらず、また世間の聲にも耳をかきずついに終戦の今日まで
遺骨を獲り抜いたのだつた、その間大阪北御堂津村別院が砲火に遭ひ、同
別院に奉安してあつた日本軍將兵の遺骨も同寺が損かゝることになり、こゝ
に彼我の英靈の邂逅となつて同歸は一層その責任の重さを感じたのだつた、
かうして聯合軍の進駐とはなつたが、先遣隊は聯合國兵の遺骨が鄭重に保
安されてあることを知り、先づ二十五日数名の將校が同寺を視察、山口師
の回向を獻げて焼香をし、聯合軍を代表して深甚の謝意を表す、と心か
ら感謝したのだつた、そしてさる四日クラレンス・ビー・ダイヤモンド中尉
ほか二名の將兵が同寺を訪ね、五日朝から正式に三名の衛兵が一人づつ交
代でこの遺骨を守護することになつたのである。

ところのあつた山口師は村田大佐の奇特な甲出を心よく引受けたのだつた、
皇軍曹長であり同時に僧侶である山口師はそれ以來軍務のかたはら朝夕の
同向を缺かしたことがなかつた。

寺は度重なる空爆にもその都度災害をまぬかれたが、暴風で奉安棚から
遺骨が放り出されたことも一度や二度ではなかつた、かうした困難な状況
の下にもかゝらず、また世間の聲にも耳をかさずついに終戦の今日まで
遺骨を護り抜いたのだつた、その間大阪北御堂津村別院が戦火に遭ひ、同
別院に奉安してあつた日本軍將兵の遺骨も同寺が損かゝることになり、こゝ
に彼我の英靈の邂逅となつて同歸は一層その責任の重さを感じたのだつた、
かうして聯合軍の進駐とはなつたが、先遣隊は聯合國兵の遺骨が鄭重に保
安されてゐることを知り、先づ二十五日数名の將校が同寺を視察、山口師
の同向を獻げて焼香をし、聯合軍を代表して深甚の謝意を表す、と心か
ら感謝したのだつた、そしてさる四日クラレンス・ビー・ダイヤモンド中尉
ほか二名の將兵が同寺を訪ね、五日朝から正式に三名の衛兵が一人づつ交
代でこの遺骨を守護することになつたのである。

DLF..D OC . 2000

本寫眞は昭和二十年十月六日附大阪朝日新聞二面を復寫せるものなること
を證明す

昭和二十二年 六月 三日

朝日新聞東京本社調査部長

阪

本

泉